

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

- 1-23. (Cancelled)
24. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising:
 - a) nucleotide 1252 through 1543 of Figure 2; or
 - b) nucleotides encoding amino acids 299 through 396 of Figure 2.
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 1252 through 1543 of Figure 2.
- 27-29. (Cancelled)
30. (Previously presented): An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides encoding amino acids 299 through 396 of Figure 2.
- 31-32. (Cancelled)
33. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide that hybridizes to a polynucleotide complementary to a ~~polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 1252 to 1543 of Figure 2 under the following stringent hybridization conditions: incubation at 65°C in standard hybridization buffer (6X SSC, 5X Denhardt's solution, 0.01 M EDTA, 0.5% SDS) and washing at 65°C in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS,~~ wherein said isolated polynucleotide encodes a protein characterized by the ability to induce the formation of cartilage and/or bone tissue.
34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented) A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 24 in operative association with an expression control sequence therefore.

36. (Previously presented) A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 33 in operative association with an expression control sequence therefore.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented) A host cell transformed with a vector of claim 35.

39. (Previously presented) A host cell transformed with a vector of claim 36.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising ATCC deposit 40345.

42. (Previously presented) A method for producing a bone morphogenetic protein, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) culturing a host cell transformed with a polynucleotide of claim 33, and
- b) recovering said bone morphogenetic protein.

43-49. (Cancelled)